



# Sister City Association of Huntington Beach

P.O. Box 2321

Huntington Beach, CA 92647-2321

November 20, 2019



Dear Mr. Travis Hopkins

On Wednesday, October 9, 2019, the Sister City Association of Huntington Beach Board of Directors voted by majority to approve the intent to proceed with making Biarritz, France our new Sister City and for a Resolution reflecting this approval be presented at City Council.

The decision to proceed with Biarritz has been made after nearly a year of research and development on the project. Located on the southern Atlantic coast of France's Basque Country, the town of Biarritz was chosen by Huntington Beach as its new Sister City for its many compatible characteristics, especially its historic surf culture. While Huntington Beach is America's Surf City USA, Biarritz is known as the Surf Capital of Europe, and like Huntington Beach, attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world, is host to prestigious surf championships, has world-class beaches, waves and universally-known beach breaks and other "hot spots" and is home to a high-quality surf industry. And while Biarritz is a thriving resort town with world-class hotels, it is also home to industry (aviation), the City of Ocean & Surf Museum, and in future, a new technology park "Marine City", devoted to ocean resources. In August 2019, Biarritz was host to the G-7 summit. And in joint-venture with the nearby town of Hossegor, Biarritz is a likely contender as the surf venue for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

In September 2019, on Biarritz's invitation, a small delegation from Huntington Beach made a "scouting trip" to Biarritz, led by Mayor Erik Peterson and including Chris Cole from the City of Huntington Beach, Kelly Miller of Visit Huntington Beach and Kate Miller from the Board of Huntington Beach Sister City Association. The delegation toured the region and met with the Mayor of Biarritz and several key city council members, including the Biarritz Minister of Surf (who also the coach of the youth program, Biarritz Association Surf Club) as well as the Biarritz Visitor Bureau and marketing director, and other civic leaders, all organized by Alain Robert, Biarritz City Councilman and head of Biarritz's Sister Cities program.

From this trip and the subsequent trip to Huntington Beach by Alain Robert in October, we are encouraged by the enthusiasm and intent from Biarritz to proceed with a future partnership as another Sister City. Both cities agree we have much to share and learn from one another and there are many opportunities for cultural exchanges, as well as sharing best practices in beach & environmental management, event management and more. The aim and intent by both cities is to develop a partnership with a fairly wide scope of programs, to include but not limited to youth and adult cultural exchanges and goodwill visits, as well as exploring possible business developments, exchanges, and more.

Sincerely

Anjo, Japan

Frank Nakabayashi, President



Manly, Australia



In collaboration with:

City of Huntington Beach  
Community Services Department  
714-536-5486